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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,657	06/13/2007	Peter Jonathan Bentley	020884-000014	2391
24239	7590	11/10/2008	EXAMINER	
MOORE & VAN ALLEN PLLC			ROBINSON, CHANCEITY N	
P.O. BOX 13706				
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1795	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/10/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/599,657	BENTLEY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	CHANCEITY N. ROBINSON	1795

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/04/2006 & 01/11/2007.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nguyen (US 6, 177, 182 B1).

Regarding claims 1-4, 8 and 10-11, Nguyen discloses a thermally reactive new infrared absorption polymer comprising an infrared absorption chromophoric moiety comprising derivatives of indole cyanine dye and benz[e]-indole cyanine dye, which is bonded to the backbone of an alkali-soluble phenolic resin. See column 3, line 40- column 5, line 14. Further, Nguyen discloses indole cyanine dye such as ADS810PO and benz[e]-indole cyanine dye such as ADS805PO, which meets the limitations of the instant application of salts of indole cyanine dye and benz[e]-indole cyanine dye. (See examples 5 and 14). Nguyen discloses a heat sensitive positive working lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a substrate and a layer coated thereon, wherein the layer comprises the near infrared absorption polymer. See example 18 and claim 4. Also, Nguyen discloses a process of manufacture of a heat sensitive positive working

lithographic printing plate precursor, said method comprising: a) imagewise exposing the printing plate precursor with a near-infrared laser emitting at between 780 and 850 nm (example 16); and b) developing the precursor in a developing solution to remove the exposed areas. See reference claims 11-12 and examples 23-24. Also, Nguyen disclose the drying the coated substrate coated at 80°C to give the plate precursor. See example 17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claims 5-7, 9 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen (US 6, 177, 182 B1) as applied to claims 1-4, 8 and 10-11 are above.

Regarding claims 5-6 and 13, Nguyen does not explicitly disclose the number ratio of indole cyanine dye to benz[e]-indole cyanine dye is comprised in the range of 1:1 to 1:5. However, Nguyen recognizes that a mixture of two different cyanine dyes can be combined at

different weight ratios. See example 16. Further, Examiner notes a person skilled in art would readily identify the number (molar) ratio of the cyanine dyes presented in the infrared absorption polymer is too large or too small would affect the stability of the coating substrate of the printing plate. The number ratio is therefore optimizable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify/optimize the cyanine dyes to yield desired number (molar) ratio. Discovery of optimum value of result effective variable in known process is ordinarily within skill of art. *In re Boesch*, CCPA 1980, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ215.

Regarding claims 7 and 14, Nguyen does not explicitly disclose the number ratio of the total pendent IR chromophoric moieties relative to the parent alkali-soluble resin is comprised in the range of 1:30 to 1:5 or 1:50 to 1:3. However, Examiner notes a person skilled in art would identify the number ratio of the total pendent IR chromophoric moieties relative to the parent alkali-soluble resin is too large or too small would affect the stability of the coating substrate of the printing plate. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify/optimize the total pendent IR chromophoric moieties relative to the parent alkali-soluble resin to yield desired number (molar) ratio. Discovery of optimum value of result effective variable in known process is ordinarily within skill of art. *In re Boesch*, CCPA 1980, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ215.

Regarding claim 9, Nguyen does not explicitly disclose a positive printing plate precursor, wherein the dry coat weight of the coating layer comprising the near infrared absorption polymer is in the range 1.4-1.9 g/m². However, Nguyen discloses a dry coating weight of 2.0 g/m². Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to recognize that the dry coat weight of the coating layer is 2.0 g/m²

(reference) and 1.9 g/m²(instant application) are closely related and therefore would be expected to perform in the same manner. The same results of the coating layer having a dry coat weight of 2.0 g/m² as would be expected from the coating layer having a dry coat weight of 1.9 g/m². *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (citing *In re Petering*, 301F.2d 676, 682, 133 USPQ 275, 280 (CCPA 1962)) (MPEP 2131.03).

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen (US 6,177,182 B1) as applied to claims 1-4, 8 and 10-11 are above, and further in view of Tao et al. (US 6,939,663 A1).

Regarding claim 12, Nguyen does not explicitly disclose the resin is a novolak resin. However, Tao et al. disclose a method for forming a positive working lithographic printing plate comprising a layer of an imageable coating over a substrate, wherein the imageable coating composition comprises of a novolak resin. See column 5, lines 36-52. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the resin of Nguyen as a novolak resin, because Tao et al. disclose the novolak resins are thermoplastic commonly used in lithography and allows for on-press development.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHANCEITY N. ROBINSON whose telephone number is (571)270-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday: 7:30 am-6:00 pm eastern time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (571)272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chanceity N Robinson/
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/Cynthia H Kelly/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795